

Hawaii MARINE ON POINT

HAWAII MARINE D SECTION

JULY 8, 2005

Ding, ding, ding

USA Boxing draws BayFest crowd

**Story and Photos By
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The USA Boxing Hawaii Association brought some entertainment to BayFest on Saturday, as a few local youths went head-to-head for three rounds of intense action inside the ring.

The 127-pound weight division's main event that evening included first-time fighter Matthew Takata from the Palolo Boxing Club, who was up against Amedeo Ezzo-White Jr., a 7-5 fighter from Danny's Evolution Boxing Club.

Takata, the stockier of the two, came into the ring ready for his first fight against Ezzo-White, well aware that the more experienced fighter had some tricks up his sleeve.

"I knew I had to take precautions," said Takata, after the fight. "I knew a little about Amadeo — that he has quick hands and is a good boxer — so I wasn't going to underestimate him at all. My coach, Joe Kim, prepared me well."

At the start of the fight, Ezzo-White quickly demonstrated his hand-speed, catching Takata with a few short jabs to back Takata up into the corner. When Takata broke free, he was able to land a few heavy throws that if better aimed, could have taken Ezzo-White to the canvas. At the final bell, Ezzo-White came out on top.

The second main event of the evening matched up two 175-pound fighters. Darius Ursua, from the Palolo Boxing Club in the red corner, and Matthew Monkewick from Kawano Boxing Club in the blue.

"When I first saw him, I was like, oh — no," said Ursua.

Monkewick stood at least a foot taller than Ursua, which also translated into a much farther reach for Monkewick, and Ursua couldn't overcome it.

Throughout the three rounds, Monkewick bullied Ursua around the ring, pinning him against the ropes on several occasions. Fortunately, for

Ursua, very few of Monkewick throws actually connected with any force, but Ursua was able to get in enough of his own to make it a good fight. At the end of the third round, though, it was Monkewick who had his arm raised in victory.

After the main event fights, time permitted one more fight. This was the 85-pound weight class in which Jonard DeVera from the Kalakaua Boxing Club faced Emmet Bolibol of Hawaii Youth Boxing Club.

Bolibol began bleeding from the nose early in the first round, but kept up a fierce fight against DeVera throughout the match.

"During the second round, I was just trying to get in some points, throwing as many as I could," admitted Bolibol.

According to Ed Galapia, boxing coach at the Kalakaua Boxing Club, DeVera has been on the island for about one year.

"Bolibol, and all these kids, are a real credit to the sport of boxing," said Galapia. "I'm sure that both of the boys had a great time, and it was a great fight."



Jhonathan Domingo, of Kalakaua Boxing Club, takes a shot to the chin from his opponent during his fight, Saturday, at BayFest.



Patrick Cullen (left), of Kalakaua Boxing Club, slugs it out with his opponent, Elmer Bolibol, of Hawaii Youth Boxing Club, during the last match of the day, Saturday.



Darius Ursua (left) of Palolo Boxing Club, dodges a hard right thrown by Matthew Monkewick, of Kawano Boxing Club, in the second round. Ursua was backed up onto the ropes several times during the match, where he avoided much of what Monkewick threw.



Bleeding Emmet Bolibol (left), of Hawaii Youth Boxing Club, throws a left to the face of Jonard DeVera, in the second round of their fight, Saturday, at BayFest. The boxing event was sponsored by USA Boxing, and supported by boxing clubs from around the Hawaiian Islands.